

Oak Hill Bowls Club

April 2025



Roll up, the 2025 season is nearly here!

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This newsletter is being out together with the annual subscription forms for members and the entry form for club competitions.

Coffee Morning & Club Opening

The club season will start officially on Saturday 19th April with our traditional coffee morning when members can bring their subscription and competition entry forms, and meet other members over a cup of coffee. The green will then be available from that date for members to come along and bowl. We are opening slightly earlier than other years as a number of members have entered county competitions and the early rounds for some competitions start at the beginning of May, so we are giving them the opportunity for early practice.

As Easter is late this year, the club finals at Glebelands are being held on the weekend of 26th / 27th April. We anticipate that a number of Oak Hill members will be involved and I am sure they would appreciate your support.

Our first major event at Oak Hill will be **Captain's Day** on Saturday 3rd May, so please put your name on the sheet on the competitions notice board if you are able to come along.

Fixture cards containing a full list of club fixtures will be available at the coffee morning.



Subscriptions

The subscription for full-playing members is being increased by £15 to £190 for this season, with the corresponding subscription for associate members being £95. We believe that this amount is very reasonable, compared with a number of other local clubs who charge more than £200 for their annual membership. Our club has a much fuller fixture programme than most other clubs, providing the opportunity for members to represent the club in a wide range of friendly and league fixtures.

The subscription for social members is being increased from £25 to £30, with that for any junior members being reduced to a nominal £5.

One change on the subscription form is that we are asking members to notify us of their next of kin. This information will not be made available to anyone other than club officials, and will only be used in urgent situations.

Club-nights

We are hoping to draw up a full programme of food and activities for Thursday club-nights. The programme for future weeks will be shown on the notice board outside the kitchen, so please put your name on the relevant sheet by the Tuesday of the week, so that we know how many to cater for. The first full club-night will be on the 1st May when Mike Marques will be cooking the meat for our traditional barbecue.

CIO Application, rules document and AGM

Our application was submitted in January to the Charity Commission for the club to be registered as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The Commission has indicated that they are experiencing a high volume of work and their turn-round time for new applications is now between 10 and 12 weeks, so we should hear from them shortly.

In addition to a new club constitution which was submitted to the commission as part of our application, a working group has now prepared a separate document titled Club Rules, which outlines the way the club is to be managed on a day-to-day basis. This document was approved unanimously at the deferred club AGM on the 1st March. The main changes were outlined in our January newsletter.

The new Social Committee has already met and started to organise a full programme for club-nights. The Bowls Committee will be having their first meeting shortly.

The following club officials were appointed at the AGM -

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| • President | John Abson |
| • Deputy President | Gordon Greenfield |
| • Honorary Secretary | Pauline Dinner |
| • Honorary Treasurer | David Conway |
| • Match Secretary | Julian Shulman |
| • Men's Captain | Rhys Lewis |
| • Ladies' Captain | Paulette Cowan |
| • Men's Vice-Captains | Damian Treanor |
| • Social Secretary | Jackie Robinson |
| • Bar Manager | Annika Strandberg |
| • Green Ranger | Terry Doe |
| • Membership Secretaries | Pete Headland, Junior Brewster |

Since the AGM Kay Comer and Ian Wilson have been co-opted to the Social Committee and Rob Petty has agreed to take on the role of Competitions Secretary, to be helped by other senior members of the club.

Congratulations to David Bowler, who was nominated and accepted as an honorary Life member of the club at the AGM.



100 Club, Bonus Ball and Golden Pot



Completing the subscription form is also the easiest way to take part in two further ways of supporting the club.

The 100 club has a monthly draw with a prize of £100. Up to 100 numbers are available, so this is an excellent opportunity to support the club and have a chance of winning a major prize. The Bonus Ball has a weekly draw with the winning number being the bonus ball from the lottery draw and winning £40. For this year, if there is no winning member in a particular week the prize will be rolled-over to the following week.

If you would like to be allocated particular numbers please see Kay Comer. Last year these two draws were not fully subscribed, so we may have to review whether to run them next year, or change the format, unless more members take part. Multiple entries per member are encouraged and give the individual a better chance of winning.

We also plan to organise the Golden Pot draw each week at club-nights. Entries are just £1 per number, with the winner taking a proportion of the total pot.

John Golding

Memorial Trophy

Oak Hill won the second-leg of this indoor fixture against Glebelands, but failed to make up the deficit from the first match, so the John Golding Memorial trophy was awarded to Glebelands for this year. However, we will win it back next year!



Two groups of year-7 pupils from East Barnet school will be coming to the club on Monday mornings as part of their PE curriculum. The first groups of up to 16 students will be coming on the 28th April. We would be very grateful for any volunteers to help with this rewarding activity, the first group coming at 9.20am.



Open League

We will have 16 teams competing in our very popular Open league on Tuesday mornings throughout the season. The first round of matches will be played on the 29th April.

Recruitment

We need to recruit new members, particularly lady members, and we will have three initiatives at the beginning of the season.

We are encouraging members to introduce their friends. For every new member introduced by an existing member, the introducing member will be given a 25% reduction in their subscription next year, so a member could reduce their subscription to zero if they introduce four new members.

There is a very popular Oak Hill park run every Saturday morning starting at 9am, with the finish just outside the club gate. The organisers have asked whether they could store a plastic bin for their equipment inside our club gate and we have agreed to this request. They do not yet have their bin as it will be bought with a grant from Barnet council. The park run organisers have agreed to promote our club and for all the Saturdays in May we have offered to provide refreshments to runners after they have finished their run. The hope is that some of them will be encouraged to have a try at bowls and subsequently join the club. To help with this initiative we will require members:

- To talk to the runners when they have completed their run
- To serve drinks – tea and coffee – to any runners coming into the club
- To take runners on the green, organise bowls for them and let them have a try at bowling

We have also subscribed to the Bowls England “Big Weekend” on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th May. Bowls England will be advertising this initiative through national media and will be providing the club with material to promote the club.

We wish you all a happy and healthy season bowling.